Mint of the U. States
at Phila.a

M & R. Dept.

Phila. 8 Sept. 1879

Sir,

In response to your communication of the proposal to supply us with an amount of our former Copper Cent to be converted into Bronze coin, I beg to say that I have repeatedly endeavored within the last 15 years to utilize the old Copper Cent by making it into the Bronze Alloy, but invariably with the result, that a large amount has been thrown back on my hands by the Coiner as wholly unfit for Coinage from its hardness, cracking & blistering, and difficulty in brightening, and that we failed in every device to render the metal fit for coinage. The amount of metal lost at each melting, usually, 1 @ 3%, - the time consumed in rolling, &c. for coinage, - & then remelting because of its impracticable character, - together with waste of fluxes, and wear & tear of crucible and furnace in striving to bring the old cent bronze to good coinage quality, - all lead

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden
Supt

to the

RG104 E-1 Box 118

to the conclusion that it is far more economical to employ the best Commercial Copper than our Old Cent Copper for making Bronze Cent Metal.

Under these considerations it is a more profitable Commercial operation to melt the Old cents into Bars, sell these in the Open Market, and with the proceeds purchase the Best Commercial Ingot to make new Bronze metal. The true cost of these last will only be the difference in value between the Copper Cent bars, and an equal quantity of the best Commercial Copper bars, while the cost of making Bronze Coin from the former will be far greater than from the latter.

I am

very respectfully yours

J. A. C. Booth

M. T. R.

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden,

Superintendent.

Wm. Autry

RG104 E-1 Box 118

661½

U. S. Mint, Melter and Refiner's Department,

PHILADELPHIA, PENN.,

Sept 8, 1880.

Jas. L. Booth

Melter and Refiner.

Cannot utilize old copper cents to make Bronze 1¢ pc. Should be melted into Bars and sold

No. of Enclosures,

Rec'd Sept. 8th 1879.

RG104 E-1 Box 118

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 118

[Abstract:] Cannot utilize old copper cents to make Bronze 1¢ pcs… 661 ½

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Very respectfully yours,
Jas. C. Booth
M & R

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden,
Superintendent.

[Noted at bottom:]

Iron, Anthryc.